The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE — 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1694 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 39

## FACING the FACTS

*With* PHILIP PEARL

The war is going our way. That's the big thing that strikes us as we pause here in Boston for a moment's reflection on the eve of the exciting 63rd annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which is just about to get under way.

Ordinarily, as we go about our day-to-day existence, the long-range significance of events is apt to be obscured by the impact of immediate problems and worries. We don't often get a chance to sit back and look things over in a detached and contemplative frame of mind.

But right now we have the opportunity to review developments since the last convention of the American Federation of Labor. Such a comparison between the state of the war last October and now is astonishing.

A year ago, the Nazis were knocking against the gates of Stalingrad and Russia's defenses seemed about to collapse.

The headlines said that the Nazis were widening their air raids against Great Britain and causing heavy damage.

Submarines were taking a heavy toll of our shipping.

The Japs were endangering Australia and sinking many of our warships.

In fact, the newspapers of Oct. 1, 1942 reported that the Yankees had won the opening of the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals and another pennant seemed in the bag.

Just think how things have changed since then!

### How War Maps Changed

Who would have thought a year ago that there could be such a sudden and decisive turn in the fortunes of war within twelve months? Who would have believed that the Russians in so short a time would be able to smash the blitzkrieg and drive the Nazis back to the Polish borders? Who would have dared to predict that the United Nations would seize the offensive, clean up Africa, invade Italy and mop up the Japs in the Pacific? Who could even dream that we would be in the position of giving the cities of Germany a much heavier dose of the same medicine the Nazis had administered to Britain?

Well, with all due modesty. labor did make such predictions. We find them incorporated in the acceptance speech made by President Green to the convention last October after his re-election. He declared then that 1943 would be a decisive year in the war, that the United Nations would begin to make their power felt and that the Axis would be faced with internal collapse. Mussolini can testify to the truth of these prognostications.

But the question is—why was labor so confident? And the answer is that labor knew its own strength and the strength of America, the mighty productive capacity of our industrial machine and the courage and fighting ability of America's boys in uniform.

Yes, the United Nations have been surprisingly successful in the past year. And the reason that so much progress has been made in subduing the enemy is primarily the vast flow of ships, planes, tanks and guns which has poured forth from America as a result of the hard work and unconquerable spirit of American labor.

### Making It Clear

So as we meet again for the 63rd time in the history of the American Federation of Labor, we can feel justly proud of the record made by American workers and their trade unions.

Now some of our Government bigwigs and psychology warriors profess to be alarmed by the implications of the congratulatory spirit manifesting itself at so early a date. They keep reminding us that the war is not yet won and that the real fight still lies ahead of us.

Gentlemen, we know that quite well. We weren't afraid of what faced us a year ago and we're not afraid now. We don't believe a psychology of fear gets results. On the contrary, we feel that self-confidence is one of America's greatest assets and we don't propose to weaken the confidence of the American people by gloomy forebodings.

You say the going is due to get tougher? You say that we'll have to work harder and fight harder to win? You warn us that we'll have to tighten our belts against new food shortages and do with less fuel and gasoline and other items to which we have become accustomed? So what?

Does any propaganda specialist or professional moulder of public opinion expect the American people to go into mourning because of such prospects? Do they think that American workers and the American people as a whole can't take it? Or are they afraid that we can't stand success?

In any event, we don't need to let the propaganda boys bother us. We know we're doing all right. We're determined to do a lot better. We're going to win this war no matter what it takes and let us serve notice right now that we're going to win the peace too.

We have an idea that this forthcoming convention of the American Federation of Labor will make this clear.

## Wallace Warns Farmers Against Unwarranted Criticism Of Labor

Washington, D. C.—Vice President Henry A. Wallace warns farmers against incessant and unjustified criticism of labor in an interview published by "Spade," national farm publication. He said:

"I have noticed that in the last 20 years farm income and labor income go up and down together. I have noticed that anything that cuts labor's income cuts the income of all farmers, except those on the export market. I have also noticed that all agricultural legislation has been dependent upon the votes of congressmen representing labor constituencies.

"The point I am making is that if agriculture, by incessant criticism of labor, finally succeeds in turning labor into an enemy there may be a very difficult situation for agriculture several years hence when markets are not as good as they are now.

"I have never heard an important labor leader criticise agriculture. I have heard many farm leaders criticise labor.

"Farmers, if only from the standpoint of their own self interest, must be concerned about labor. Labor makes the farmer's market. Farm legislation depends upon labor as well as farm votes.

"The important thing is that both of these great groups work together for their mutual welfare and in so doing they will serve the welfare of the whole nation."

## Yellow-Dog Contracts For Teachers

*Washington, D. C.—The following cogent editorial is reprinted from the Washington Post:*

The otherwise progressive community of Oklahoma City has canceled contracts with three of its teachers because they objected to a clause barring them from membership in a labor union. This in itself is perhaps less astonishing than the fact that more than 1,100 other teachers in the city school system were apparently willing to put their names to a contract of such a medieval nature. One cannot help wondering about the fitness of these teachers to instruct the young if they have learned so little themselves of democratic developments during the twentieth century.

Evidently the Oklahoma City fathers have learned very little on this score. The sort of contract with which they seek to force docility upon their employes runs counter to a strong current of popular thought and of social evolution. Labor unions are now generally recognized as democratic institutions—indeed, as indispensable bulwarks of a free society. The right of men to join in voluntary associations of their own choosing is an inescapable extension and corollary of the right of free assembly. We do not suggest that Oklahoma City should bargain collectively with its teachers. Since unions cannot properly strike against a governmental agency, they do not occupy the same relationship to a city that exists between private employers and employes. But in denying these teachers the right to membership in any labor union, the municipal government, we think, has done violence to the spirit, if not the letter, of our basic civil liberties. One of the dismissed teachers very properly blotted out the antiunion clause of the contract and wrote in longhand in its place, "I am still a citizen of the United States."

## ARMY CONSTRUCTION JOBS HAVE FEW WORK STOPPAGES

Washington, D. C.—Work stoppages from all causes, including strikes, on its $6,000,000,000 construction program, initiated and supervised by the Corps of Engineers, Army Service Forces, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1943, amounted to one 2/100 of one per cent of the total man hours encompassed by the program, the War Department announced.

The record, covering what is believed to be the greatest construction program of all time, embraces 14,469 projects, ranging from a minimum cost of $5,000 to a maximum running into several millions of dollars.

The few work stoppages, for the most part, ended after one or two days.

## ARMY TELLS PLANS TO LABOR LEADERS

### Confidential Military Data Disclosed To Emphasize Need For More Materiel

Washington, D. C.—As America's armed forces were crashing through to new victories in Italy and the Pacific, representatives of the nation's soldiers of production were given a first-hand picture of the military situation by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

At a two-day conference in the Pentagon Building, Secretary Patterson, General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, and other high-ranking Army leaders conveyed to labor and industry leaders a confidential report on the progress of the war and the major equipments needs that face the armed forces.

The Army leaders emphasized that labor and industry are "the Army's partners on the production front."

AFL President William Green and the heads of many AFL international unions participated in the conference along with CIO representatives and business spokesmen.

"As our troops begin large-scale operations on the continent of Europe, we are calling together the representatives of those on whom we depend for the instruments of war so that they may know precisely the military job that lies ahead," Mr. Patterson said.

"A conference of this type, in which our military General Staff reports to a cross-section of our industrial General Staff on the war situation, the strategy we are counting on for victory and the probable cost in men and materiel, is part of the way democracy fights a war. We are confident that the results will be of the utmost benefit to the effective prosecution of the war."

After Patterson stated the conference's aims, General Marshall outlined the status of military operations in all combat zones. Major General George V. Strong, Chief of the Military Intelligence Service, gave a confidential appraisal of the military and economic strength of the Axis.

From Lieut. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Chief of Staff, the conference heard an explanation of United Nations strategy, the time and equipment required to prepare an operation and the relative part which air and ground forces have to play. Eye-witness accounts were presented of bombing raids over Germany, amphibious landings in Sicily and the setting up of overseas bases.

Army Service Forces and Air Forces generals highlighted the degree to which military plans must be limited by production schedules and the manner in which battle experience forces alterations in design and requirements for specific weapons. Lieut. Gen. William S. Knudsen, Army Director of Production, reported on what our equipment is doing in the field, based on his observations during his recent 30-000-mile trip to the South Pacific with Under Secretary Patterson. The job still to be done on the home front was discussed by C. E. Wilson, executive vice-chairman of the War Production Board.

# War And Peace Issues Debated By Delegates As AFL's Annual Convention Opens in Boston

### *Metal Workers Hear Frey Hit CIO For Blocking Labor Unity*

Boston—Representatives of more than a million metal workers, who have done so much in the nation's shipyards, aircraft plants, machine shops and munitions factories to speed America's victory march, called upon the Government to eliminate unnecessary interference with the joint efforts of management and labor to achieve maximum production.

Opening the 35th annual convention of the AFL Metal Trades Department, President John P. Frey castigated the professors and amateurs, equipped with only theoretical knowledge, who have tried to tell experienced and practical business and labor leaders how to do their job.

"Less Government direction and more labor-management cooperation" was Frey's convention keynote.

At the same time, the head of the Metal Trades Department charged that the CIO is preventing labor unity by refusing AFL offers to enter into a no-raiding agreement.

"In peacetime such raiding of another labor organization's membership would be at best questionable," he reported to the convention. "During wartime such raiding is as reprehensible as it is unpatriotic."

Insisting that a no-raiding agreement must precede any worthwhile effort to restore labor peace, Frey added:

"The CIO must demonstrate by its actions that confidence can be placed in the good intentions of its leaders before steps toward unity can be taken."

Frey severely criticized the National War Labor Board for refusing to authorize wage adjustments in the shipyards which were promised by the Government to the workers to make up for increased living costs. He emphasized that metal trades workers are not trying to take advantage of the war to increase their pay but are merely trying to safeguard and maintain their standards.

He reported to the convention that passage of the amendment restraining the National Labor Relations Board from interfering with contracts which have been in effect three months has effectively blocked the Board's efforts to assist CIO unions in their raiding campaigns against shipyards under AFL agreements.

In concluding his report to the convention, Frey said:

"We are confident that your decisions will give credit to your judgment, your patriotism and your determination to do two things—protect labor's interests and give to the nation an outstanding contribution of cooperation in the war effort."

A large number of distinguished speakers, headed by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard, will address later sessions of the Metal Trades Department convention.

### *Wages, Manpower And Post-War Plans Interest Labor Chiefs*

Boston—With the double objective of doing everything possible to win the war and to win the peace, more than 500 delegates converged on this city for the 63d annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

As the representatives of six million American workers gathered in the lobby of the Statler Hotel awaiting the convention opening the consensus of opinion was that the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions are now at peak strength.

Reports from delegates coming in from every section of the country indicated that war production is proceeding at a rapidly increasing pace in the nation's shipyards, munitions factories and aircraft plants.

The chief issues disturbing the labor leaders were the failure of the Government to keep the cost of living down to the levels at which wages have been stabilized and the alarming effects of various manpower controls put into effect by the Government.

A growing demand was openly expressed for prompt and decisive action by the Government to bring prices of the necessities of life back into equitable relationship with the wage income of workers. At the same time, opposition to any form of compulsory labor draft was gathering momentum.

These and many other vital national issues of particular interest to labor will be presented to the convention, debated, and voted upon. The policies decided upon by the convention will guide the American Federation of Labor during the coming year.

The fact that the Connally-Smith Act has been thoroughly discredited during its brief period of existence provided cheering news for the convention, which will unquestionably demand that Congress repeal this vicious anti-labor law at once. Strong disapproval was expressed of the effects of anti-labor laws adopted in several States, which are now being challenged in the courts.

For the first time since the war began, as much interest was being displayed by the delegates in post-war plans as in pushing the victory drive. Reflecting the assurance that eventual victory for the United Nations is now certain, the delegates voiced deepening concern over the effects of peace upon industrial activity.

From their conversations, it can be said that the union representatives believe the only way to avert a major depression with serious unemployment after the war is to prepare now for a large-scale peacetime production program which can be put into operation as soon as the fighting ends.

Most of the delegates arrived early in Boston to attend the departmental conventions which serve as a prelude for the AFL's annual conclave. Unusually large attendance was reported at the meetings of the AFL Metal Trades, Building Trades and Union Label Trades annual meetings.

## AFL Calls Nutrition Conference To Spur Victory On Food Front

Boston—Labor is going in for food in a big way. Because of the war crisis, leaders of the American Federation of Labor have called an epochal Conference on Food and Nutrition which will be held here at the Statler Hotel during the AFL convention. The purpose is to strengthen the home front and to give the representatives of six million workers the "inside dope" on the food problem.

Government leaders, labor chiefs and nutrition experts will address the conference which is scheduled to open at 10 a.m., Oct. 9. I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, who will preside, declared:

"Defeat on the food front means defeat on our battlefields. The food situation throughout the Nation is beginning to show the strain of war requirements. There are sporadic shortages of some food items in every community. Prices are skyrocketing beyond the limits of workers' pay envelopes. War production will suffer if labor's health and physical strength decline. Without peak production, victory will be delayed.

"The Union Label Trades Department has sponsored Labor's Nutritional Committee with the one desire of working out constructive suggestions for assuring the Nation a sufficient food supply with fair prices and equitable distribution. We desire to help make rationing a success by doing our share in obtaining an adequate quality and quantity of food for war workers. We want not only to maintain but even improve the health level of American labor."

The meeting will be opened by William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, who will discuss labor's stake in victory on the food front. George Meany, AFL Secretary-Treasurer, and Matthew Woll, AFL Vice-President and President of the Union Label Trades Department, will also speak.

The War Food Administration will be represented by Roy F. Hendrickson, Deputy Administrator of the Food Distribution Division, who will talk on production and distribution of food in wartime. Paul H. Appleby, Undersecretary of Agriculture, will discuss the tasks of the United Nations' Conference on Food and Agriculture of which he is the American delegate. Chester Bowles, General Manager of the Office of Price Administration, will speak on price control. Dr. Mark Graubard, Director of Labor Education, Food Distribution Administration, will tell about labor's stake in nutrition education. James Patton, President of the National Farmers' Union, and Charles W. Holman, Secretary, The National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, will represent the farmers. Mrs. Herman H. Lowe, President of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, will bring the message of the homemaker on the food front. Speakers representing European labor will also address the conference.

## Green Asks Secretary Hull's Aid To Protect Jews in Hitler's Europe

Washington, D. C.—At a conference with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, AFL President William Green urged the Government to warn Hitler that his Nazi stooges will be punished for their wholesale execution and persecution of the Jews of Europe.

At the same time, Mr. Green appealed for the relief of Jewish refugees by any and all means possible. He was accompanied in his visit to the State Department by President David Dubinsky, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Adolph Held, Chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee and J. Raymond Walsh, representing the CIO.

A joint statement presented to Secretary Hull said:

"Adolph Hitler has solemnly warned the civilized world that should the Nazi hordes face defeat, they will not leave a single Jew alive in their retreat. The same dictum of terror has been made by Dr. Joseph Goebbels, the voice of Hitler, and by Robert Ley, his henchman in the destruction of the free German labor movement.

"Today Hitler stands on the brink of defeat. Italy has surrendered unconditionally; on the Eastern Front the Nazis are crumbling; the German legions are in retreat everywhere.

"Free American labor, which feels a kinship with the victims of Nazi terror, has been horror-stricken by the slaughter being carried on against the Jews.

"We, therefore, take this occasion to urge the Government of the United States to warn—through short-wave radio and all other available means of communication—all those guilty of aiding the Nazi leaders in their inhuman campaign of exterminating the defenseless Jewish population of Europe, that they will be held accountable as war criminals, and will be punished for every innocent life they have taken.

"In the years of his rule, Hitler has destroyed millions of Poles, Russians, Serbs, Czechs, Frenchmen, and Greeks, and has laid waste cities and towns. But, for the Jews of Europe, the Nazis have prepared a special doom: total extermination.

"Time and again the desperate cry of the Jews languishing in the ghettos, death-chambers, and concentration camps has reached us here. Time and again the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and Americans of all walks of life, of all creeds and colors, have declared their revulsion at the abominable crimes perpetrated by the Nazis upon a defenseless people. But to no avail.

"The United States, therefore, must warn the German people that the United Nations have decided to establish the identity of those Germans who are responsible for the acts of savagery against the Jews and other peoples; that as each of these criminal deeds is committed, it is being investigated, and evidence is relentlessly being piled up for the purposes of justice.

"American labor seeks no mass reprisals against the enslaved people of Germany. But the murderers of our fellow human beings, the ring-leaders and their aides, must be named, apprehended, and tried in accordance with the judicial process of criminal law. We appeal to our Government to warn the German people to refuse openly to be identified with the cruelties perpetrated by their leaders and members of their armed forces, against the Jews, and to expose all those guilty of these crimes, lest the German people themselves be regarded as partners of the Nazi criminals.

"Only thus will German honor be saved.

"At the same time, we appeal to the Government of the United States to do all that is humanly possible, and consistent with our successful prosecution of the war, to bring immediate aid and succor to the Jews in the Nazi-occupied countries. The Jews in the ghettos can no longer be regarded as civilians. They are prisoners of war, and should be legally regarded as such. Ways and means must be found to feed the hungry men, women, and children who are doomed to a death of starvation. We also appeal to our Government and to the governments of the United Nations, to admit to all territories under their control Jewish refugees who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi hell. Now is the time to salvage those Jewish people who are still alive and who can still be saved.

"American labor, on its part, in answer to the mass horror that is being inflicted on our brothers in Europe, pledges again to use all its efforts in the future, as it has done in the past, for the complete destruction of the enemies of democracy and its legions of death. We shall fight on until our enemies have surrendered unconditionally."

## Job Reclassification Plan Asked For 33,000 Shipbuilding Workers

AFL unions and shipyard managements on the West Coast put up an unusual proposal to the National War Labor Board.

They asked the board to approve a plan of job reclassification and pay increases for 33,000 shipbuilding workers, which will save Uncle Sam eight times as much as the wage outlay.

A joint committee of the unions and the employers appeared at a WLB hearing on behalf of the pay revisions. As a demonstration of their unity on the question, both sides agreed upon Harry F. Morton, attorney for the Kaiser shipbuilding interests, as their spokesman.

Morton pointed out that the job reclassifications are essential because of new techniques and processes in West Coast shipbuilding. Twenty-four classifications would be affected.

The changes would yield pay boosts ranging up to 88 cents an hour, but the average for all 33,000 would be 10 cents, Morton said. On an annual basis, that would be approximately $8,500,000 added to the payrolls.

Morton pointed out, however, that as a result of the reclassifications, large numbers of workers, mainly in the Boilermakers' craft, who had heretofore been confined to specialized work, will be free to perform any work they are capable of doing, and it will be possible to shift them about where most needed.

That will result in an estimated saving of over 50,000,000 man-hours of labor annually in the coast shipyards, equivalent to almost $70,000,000, or more than eight times the amount of the added payroll, Morton explained.

"Under-Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard is prepared to certify to the board, if it wishes, that the adjustment will mean a substantial saving to the government in the cost of building ships," Morton said.

## John J. Murphy, AFL Organizer

"John Murphy is typical of the bright, hard-hitting young labor leaders whose honesty never makes headlines."

This is the tribute paid to John J. Murphy, AFL New England organizer, in a three-page illustrated article entitled "Meet An AFL Labor Organizer" in the current issue of the Ladies' Home Journal. Devoted to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, their two children, and their home at Arlington, Mass., the article reveals that Mr. Murphy started work when he was 11 years of age clerking in a grocery store and driving a horse-drawn delivery wagon at $4 a week. Later he worked as a machinist's apprentice, a laborer in a sprinkler-manufacturing plant, and in early life joined an AFL union.

Pointing out that in addition to being AFL organizer for the New England area, Mr. Murphy is "AFL War Bond director for a territory from West Virginia to the Canadian border; member of the New England regional War Manpower Commission; member of the War Labor Board rubber advisory committee," the article gives the following highlights of his busy day-to-day life:

"Even when he's home, leaving the office doesn't mean turning the job off. His evening reading, 9 times out of 10, [illegible] to consist of labor hearings, [illegible] proposed labor legislation, the [illegible] of fresh material on the fear[illegible] complicated problems of labor with which he must keep abreast to do his job well.

"On call, day and night, he must jump for the seat of trouble whenever a New England AFL affiliate appeals for help in a difficult situation; Maine shipyard workers, Connecticut truck drivers, Gloucester fishermen are all his boys.

"His vigorous speech, with just a touch of Boston's flat 'a', carries snap and weight and blarney in a mixture much more effective than many college graduates could manage.

"An occasional half hour in a newsreel theater in a railroad station is often as much formal entertainment as he gets."

## FORMER UNION MEMBER SEES ACTION IN NAVY

San Bernardino, Calif.—Jack Green, former member of Local 364, United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada (AFL), has been in the Navy a little more than six months, but in that short space of time he's been places and done things.

Green, 19, a fireman, first class, recently visited his local here and related some of his experiences since joining the Navy. During that time he said he had travelled 49,000 nautical miles and had participated in three major battles.

Fireman Green was wounded during the invasion of Sicily. He said he was stationed aboard a destroyer when the invasion was launched and at the "zero hour" they climbed into landing barges and headed for the shore. Their objective was the docks and beaches and they were met with a hail of machine gun bullets when they reached the shore.

"The job took us a little time, but when we were through we had wiped out most of the machine gun nests and the remainder of the enemy were our prisoners," Green said.

It was during this battle that he was wounded.

The former union man also saw action in Tunisia.

## GREEN MOBILIZES LABOR TO SPEED POLL TAX BILL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green asked officers of national and international unions, state federations of labor, city central bodies and central labor unions to urge members of the United States Senate to support H. R. 7 providing for the abolition of the poll tax, passed by the House of Representatives and now under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"No doubt a majority in the Senate will vote in favor of this legislation in the event a vote is taken," Mr. Green said. "For that reason, the minority who oppose this legislation will, according to reports which are widely circulated, conduct a filibuster. They will attempt to defeat this legislation through resort to this form of parliamentary procedure. This means then that the parliamentary rule of cloture must be applied if the Senate is accorded the privilege of voting upon this measure. It will require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to pass the cloture measure."

To counteract this scheme to defeat the poll tax bill by conducting a filibuster, Mr. Green asked the officers of all AFL unions to urge the Senators from their states to vote for a cloture measure and also in favor of the enactment of the bill.

## HOTEL UNION PURCHASES $2,200,000 WAR BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Hugo Ernst, general secretary-treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America, informed AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that the international union has purchased $200,000 worth of war bonds in the Third War Loan drive bringing the total amount of bonds bought by the international treasury to $2,200,000. In addition, local unions of the international have purchased more than $2,000,000 of bonds since the Third War Loan drive was initiated.